This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations
and is not a part of the Official Record

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning documents *will not* correct images, please do not report the images to the Image Problem Mailbox.

Cont A1

user believes has a likelihood of occurring if one of said choice options, for which said result R corresponds, occurs;

(d) third requesting the user to provide, for each of at least some of said choice options, a corresponding listing of goals that are relevant to said choice options, wherein each goal G is a response to identify an end state achieved by the participant when effort by the participant is directed toward having one of said choice options, for which said goal G corresponds, occur;

(e) fourth requesting the user to identify at least one driving force relevant to at least one choice option C of the choice options, wherein said driving force is a response to identify a ranking in said goals on said listing of goals corresponding to said choice option C, said ranking being according to a user perceived importance of the goals to the participant; and

(f) evaluating one or more decision making related skills of the user, wherein an outcome from said evaluating step is dependent upon at least one of:

(i) a rationale provided by the user for choosing a preferred one of said choice options, wherein said step of evaluating includes a step of determining whether a positive result from at least two of said listings of results are identified in said rationale;

(ii) a step of encoding, for a response by the user to at least one of said steps of (c) through (e), at least one of: a highest level of decision making reasoning in said response, and a number of levels of decision making reasoning in said response, wherein said levels, in ascending order, include: (1) a results level corresponding to conditions that the user believes has a likelihood of occurring if one of said choice options occur; (2) a goal level corresponding to an end state achieved by the participant when effort by the participant is directed toward having one of said choice options occur; and (3) a driving force level corresponding to a ranking of goals of said choice options, said ranking being according to a user perceived importance of the goals to the participant.

Cont A1

21. (New) An interactive teaching method, according to Claim 20, wherein the encoding step is performed for each of the listings in steps (b) through (d).

22. (New) An interactive teaching method, according to Claim 20, wherein, when at least one of: (i) said listing of choice options, (ii) one of said listings of results, (iii) one of said listings of goals is determined to be unacceptable in said evaluating step, requiring the user to repeat at least one of steps (b) through (e).

23. (New) An interactive teaching method, according to Claim 22, wherein, said step of requiring includes repeating steps (a) through (f) for a different factual context.

24. (New) An interactive teaching method, according to Claim 20, wherein steps (a), (b), and (f) are repeated for a plurality of factual contexts.

25. (New) An interactive teaching method, according to Claim 20, wherein step (a) includes a step of initializing a counter and further comprising, if the listing of choice options results in said evaluating step determining a value indicative of a need for remediation in one of the decision making related skills:

comparing the counter to a predetermined number of iterations;

when the counter at least one of: equals and exceeds the predetermined number, recoding that the user has not demonstrated at least one of the decision making related skills; and

when the counter is less than the predetermined number, repeating step (b).

26. (New) An interactive teaching method, according to Claim 20, wherein only steps (a), (b), and (f) are repeated for a first time period, only steps (a) through (c)

Cont

and (f) are repeated for a second time period, and only steps (a) through (d) and (f) are repeated for a third time period and wherein the first time period precedes the second time period and the second time period precedes the third time period.

A1

27. (New) An interactive teaching method, according to Claim 20, further comprising after step (c) and before step (e):

if the listing of results is acceptable in step (f), requesting a list of choice distinctions for at least one listed choice option; and

assessing the list of choice distinctions for said at least one choice option.

28. (New) An interactive teaching method, according to Claim 20, wherein steps (d) through (f) are repeated for a plurality of factual contexts.

29. (New) An interactive teaching method, according to Claim 20, wherein step (c) includes a step of initializing a counter and further comprising, if one of the lists CH 4/11/03 of results ~~results~~ in said evaluating step determining a value indicative of a need for remediation in at least one of the decision making related skills:

comparing the counter to a predetermined number of iterations;

when the counter at least one of equals and exceeds the predetermined number, recoding that the user has not demonstrated at least one of the decision making related skills; and

when the counter is less than the predetermined number, repeating step (c).

30. (New) An interactive teaching method, according to Claim 20, wherein the listing of results includes outcomes and consequences.

31. (New) An interactive teaching method, according to Claim 20, wherein steps (e) and (f) are repeated for a plurality of factual contexts.

32. (New) An interactive teaching method, according to Claim 20, wherein step (d) includes the step of initializing a counter and further comprising, if the listing of

goals results in said evaluating step determining a value indicative of a need for remediation in at least one of the decision making related skills:

comparing the counter to a predetermined number of iterations;

when the counter at least one of equals and exceeds the predetermined number, identifying that the user has not demonstrated at least one of the decision making related skills; and

when the counter is less than the predetermined number, repeating step (d).

33. (New) An interactive teaching method, according to Claim 32, further comprising the following steps:

(g) requiring selection of a choice option; and

(h) requiring a rationale for the selected choice option; and wherein the evaluating step includes the substep of assessing the rationale.

34. (New) An interactive teaching method, according to Claim 33, further comprising:

(i) determining a test score for the user's performance in one or more of steps (b), (c), (d), and (e).

35. (New) An interactive teaching method, according to Claim 20, wherein in step (f) the number of choice options is counted and compared to a predetermined ordering of numbers to determine a level of performance.

36. (New) An interactive teaching method, according to Claim 20, wherein step (f) considers at least one of: a number indicative of choice options in the choice option listing, a level of sophistication of a choice option in the choice option listing, and a number of choice options considered for selecting a most important choice option in the choice option listing.

37. (New) An interactive teaching method, according to Claim 33, wherein step (f) includes the step of forming a decision chain.

cont
A1

38. (New) An interactive teaching method, according to Claim 37, wherein the forming step includes the steps of:

comparing the listing of choice options to a predetermined listing of choice options and corresponding code to identify at least one listed choice option on the predetermined listing of choice options and a code corresponding thereto;

assigning the code to the listed choice option;

comparing the rationale with the listing of results, the listing of goals, and the at least one driving force to identify which of the listed results, the listed goals and the at least one driving force are identified in the rationale;

comparing the identified ones of the results, goals and driving forces in the rationale with a predetermined listing of results, goals, and driving forces and corresponding codes to identify the codes corresponding to the results, goals and driving forces in the rationale; and

determining the highest code level and the number of code levels in the rationale to form the decision chain.

39. (New) An apparatus for teaching decision making skills, comprising:

(a) a display for presenting at least one factual context to a user, wherein said factual context provides a situation wherein one or more possible behaviors of a participant in said factual context is specified by the user;

(b) a first collection of one or more programmatic elements for presenting a first presentation, on said display, requesting the user to specify a collection of one or more choice options corresponding to the at least one factual context, wherein each of said choice options includes one of said possible behaviors;

(c) a second collection of one or more programmatic elements for presenting a second presentation, on said display, requesting the user to specify, for each of at least some of said choice options, a corresponding collection of results including both user perceived positive and negative results, wherein each result R is for identifying a condition that the user believes has a likelihood of occurring if one of said choice options, for which said result R corresponds, occurs;

Cont A1

(d) a third collection of one or more programmatic elements for presenting a third presentation, on said display, requesting the user to specify, for each of at least some of said choice options, a corresponding collection of goals that are relevant to said choice options, wherein each goal G is for identifying an end state achieved by the participant when effort by the participant is directed toward having one of said choice options, for which said goal G corresponds, occur;

(e) a fourth collection of one or more programmatic elements for presenting a fourth presentation, on said display, requesting the user to specify at least one driving force relevant to at least one choice option C of the choice options, wherein said driving force is for identifying a ranking in said goals in said collection of goals corresponding to said choice option C, said ranking being according to a user perceived importance of the goals to the participant; and

(f) an evaluator for evaluating one or more decision making related skills of the user, wherein an output from said evaluator identifies whether or not there is a need for remediation in one of the decision making related skills of the user;

wherein said evaluator uses at least one of (i) and (ii) following in determining said output:

(i) a rationale specified by the user for choosing a preferred one of said choice options, wherein said evaluator determines whether a positive result from at least two of said collections of results are identified in said rationale;

(ii) an encoder for encoding a response by the user to at least one of said first, second, third and fourth presentations, wherein said evaluator determines, for a predetermined plurality of decision making reasoning levels, at least one of: a highest level of decision making reasoning in said response, and a number of levels of decision making reasoning in said respons.

40. (New) The apparatus of Claim 39, wherein each of said programmatic elements in said first, second, third and fourth collections includes one of: an encoding of an executable statement, and data for supplying to an executable statement.

Cont A1

41. (New) The apparatus of Claim 39, wherein said predetermined plurality of decision making reasoning levels, in ascending order, include: (1) a results level corresponding to conditions that the user believes has a likelihood of occurring if one of said choice options occur; (2) a goal level corresponding to an end state achieved by the participant when effort by the participant is directed toward having one of said choice options occur; and (3) a driving force level corresponding to a ranking in of goals of said choice options, said ranking being according to a user perceived importance of the goals to the participant.

42. (New) An apparatus for teaching decision making skills, comprising:

(a) a network server for transmitting at least one factual context to a user, wherein said factual context provides a situation wherein one or more possible behaviors of a participant in said factual context is specified by the user;

(b) a first collection of one or more programmatic elements for transmitting a first presentation, from said server, requesting the user to specify a collection of one or more choice options corresponding to the at least one factual context, wherein each of said choice options includes one of said possible behaviors;

(c) a second collection of one or more programmatic elements for transmitting a second presentation, from said server, requesting the user to specify, for each of at least some of said choice options, a corresponding collection of results including both user perceived positive and negative results, wherein each result R is for identifying a condition that the user believes has a likelihood of occurring if one of said choice options, for which said result R corresponds, occurs;

(d) a third collection of one or more programmatic elements for transmitting a third presentation, from said server, requesting the user to specify, for each of at least some of said choice options, a corresponding collection of goals that are relevant to said choice options, wherein each goal G is for identifying an end state achieved by the participant when effort by the participant is directed toward having one of said choice options, for which said goal G corresponds, occur;

(e) a fourth collection of one or more programmatic elements for transmitting a fourth presentation, from said server, requesting the user to specify at least one driving

force relevant to at least one choice option C of the choice options, wherein said driving force is for identifying a ranking in said goals in said collection of goals corresponding to said choice option C, said ranking being according to a user perceived importance of the goals to the participant; and

(f) an evaluator for evaluating one or more decision making related skills of the user, wherein an output from said evaluator identifies whether or not there is a need for remediation in one of the decision making related skills of the user;

wherein said evaluator uses at least one of (i) and (ii) following in determining said output:

(i) a rationale specified by the user for choosing a preferred one of said choice options, wherein said evaluator determines whether a positive result from at least two of said collections of results are identified in said rationale;

(ii) an encoder for encoding a response by the user to at least one of said first, second, third and fourth presentations, wherein said evaluator determines, for a predetermined plurality of decision making reasoning levels, at least one of: a highest level of decision making reasoning in said response, and a number of levels of decision making reasoning in said response.

43. (New) The apparatus of Claim 42, wherein each of said programmatic elements in said first, second, third and fourth collections includes one of: an encoding of an executable statement, and data for supplying to an executable statement.

44. (New) The apparatus of Claim 42, wherein said predetermined plurality of decision making reasoning levels, in ascending order, include: (1) a results level corresponding to conditions that the user believes has a likelihood of occurring if one of said choice options occur; (2) a goal level corresponding to an end state achieved by the participant when effort by the participant is directed toward having one of said choice options occur; and (3) a driving force level corresponding to a ranking in of goals of said

cont

choice options, said ranking being according to a user perceived importance of the goals to the participant.

A1

45. (New) The apparatus of Claim 42, wherein said server transmits one or more of said factual context, said first collection, said second collection, said third collection, and said fourth collection on the Internet.